

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. MODERATE — 2.25 miles. Circles upland woods and ravines along the eastern bluff of Laughery Valley. You'll see oak, hickory, maple, beech, tulip poplar, black walnut and other native trees. Look for limestone sink holes along the way. Trail can be accessed from below, from the Old Fire Tower Road or near Oak Grove Picnic area. Parents watch children at road crossings.
2. MODERATE — 2.75 miles. Makes a figure 8 along the hill of the southern edge of Fallen Timber Creek/ravine. It encircles Campground A and takes the visitor near CCC constructed Oak Grove Shelter where Trail 1 can be picked up. Encircling Campground A, access can be made near Oak Grove picnic area, behind Trailside Shelter, from several points in the campground, and from Fallen Timber bridge at the lake.
3. EASY 1.5 miles. Begins north of Fallen Timber bridge and goes east along Fallen Timber Creek. You will cross the creek 3 times before joining Trail 2. Make note of the numerous invertebrates that inhabit the creek bottom.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding animals is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- BOAT RENTALS** — Boats may be rented by the hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched on the lake at the boat ramp. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two 12-volt batteries are allowed.
- CAMPING** — Class "A" sites only. Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to a maximum of two weeks. All sites will accommodate tents or trailers and have electricity and firerings. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.
- CAMP STORE** — Located in the Nature Center complex near the lake. Firewood may be purchased.
- CONCESSION** — Located at pool open on pool hours.
- FISHING** — In 230 acre Versailles Lake. Bass, bluegill, catfish, and other small game fish. State fishing license required, available at the park office.
- GROUP CAMP** — Camp Laughery can accommodate 120 persons. This complex includes sleeping cabins, kitchen with appliances, dining hall, shower house and recreation hall. Available April through October except the recreation hall which may be used all year. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.
- HIKING** — More than 6 miles of hiking trails are available. Ratings for the trails are easy and moderate.
- INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE** — Available 5 days a week from Memorial Day to the middle of August. Hikes, educational and interpretive programs and evening activities are offered by a seasonal naturalist. Program schedules are available on the website at [www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/) or call (812) 689-6424. Exhibits on park's natural and cultural history at the nature center.
- PICNIC AREAS** — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields.
- SADDLE BARN** — Trailrides and hayrides are available at the saddlebarn. Bridle trails are available for those bringing their own horses. Trails are for day-use only.
- SHELTERS** — Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

(continued)

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **All of the park is protected.** Do not feed any wild animal. Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
  - Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-strung and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle.
  - Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
  - There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
  - Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Youth group camping permitted in the Youth Tent Area only. No youth groups permitted in the Family Campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
  - Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
  - Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
  - Swimming is limited to the pool and only when life-guards are on duty.
  - Horseback riders shall ride on horse trails only. Horses are not permitted on hiking trails.
  - The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed entrance into the park between those hours except fishermen and registered campers at their site.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

**SWIMMING** — A 25 meter swimming pool with a 100 foot waterslide is available. A children's waterplay area has a wading pool and 'rainmaker', a bathhouse with lockers, showers and a concession area are part of the complex. Swimming prohibited in Versailles Lake.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS


Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

[www.camp.IN.gov](http://www.camp.IN.gov)  
**1-866-6campIN**  
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

[www.indianainns.com](http://www.indianainns.com)  
**1-877-lodges1**  
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

*Write:* Versailles State Park  
Box 205, U.S. 50  
Versailles, Indiana 47042

*Mapping Address:* Versailles State Park  
1387 E. U.S. 50  
Versailles, Indiana 47042

*Call:* (812) 689-6424



Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
[www.IN.gov/dnr](http://www.IN.gov/dnr)

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

VERSAILLES  
STATE PARK



As the sun tucks away behind the picture-perfect backdrop of red, blue and purple clouds, the loud squawk of the Great Blue Heron is heard as it glides effortlessly over the Versailles Lake. Fishermen throw out their glowing bobbers to prepare for a night of catfish excitement as a family of raccoons eagerly search the banks of Laughery Creek for clams and crawdads. Another family lights their campfire near their tent to enjoy a night of marshmallows and ghost tales narrated by distant owls. This is just another day-in-the-making at the very historic and rural Versailles State Park.

In August of 1934, during the Great Depression, the National Park Service announced plans to develop a federal park on 1,700 acres of marginal Ripley County farmland. By fall land was secured for the Versailles Recreation Demonstration Area, the first federal park in Indiana, and the following January over 200 young men known as Company 596 arrived to begin work. The first focus was constructing 15 barracks, a mess hall, administration building and a

recreation building to house the boys ranging from 18 to 28 years of age that were enrolled in the “3-C’s” agency, known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. These CCC enrollees developed the park through tree planting, native stone masonry and wood construction, and road construction and path work, watershed and erosion controls and water construction projects. President Franklin Roosevelt’s “tree army” also joined W.P.A. artisans in building and shelter projects. Most of their original work is still present throughout much of Versailles State Park.

During the fall of 1937 Company 596 was pulled from Versailles to work in Oregon on another project. By April of 1943, the National Park Service deeded the property to the State of Indiana. The “Versailles Project” became Versailles State Park, Indiana’s second largest state park. Today the park includes 5988 acres.

Construction of Versailles Lake began in January, 1954. Utilizing prison laborers, the 230 acre lake was built as an area water supply and recreation outlet and was opened to the public for boating, fishing and swimming in June, 1958. New facilities and features have been added to the park over the years. A swimming pool complex complete with a waterslide was opened in 1987 and swimming in the lake is no longer permitted.

Running directly through the park is Laughery Creek, named after Colonel Archibald Lochry, a Revolutionary War soldier. In 1781, Colonel Lochry and his men were traveling down the Ohio River to meet with George Rogers Clark at the Falls of the Ohio. Before they could arrive, Colonel Lochry and his men lost their lives in an Indian battle where Laughery Creek enters the Ohio River just south of Aurora, Indiana.

Below the surface, an abundance of history can be told about the park. As rugged cliffs line the valley, over time Laughery Creek has cut its way down through Silurian reef limestone into an underlying, fossil rich, 475 million years old Ordovician rock. Throughout many of the park’s creeks, hikers will find fossils including bryozoans, brachiopods, corals and crinoids. Numerous sinkholes and associated springs point to an extensive underground drainage system that dominates the park.

Above the ground, the park’s beautiful hardwood forests provide expansive habitats for songbirds and a variety of wildlife. To learn more about Versailles State Park and the opportunities that the park provides, visit the nature center located near the lake. Interactive exhibits prove to kids of all ages that your trip to Versailles can be educational and recreational!

Enjoy your visit to this rich, historical Indiana State Park. Please come back to visit again.